

The difference between a cut antler and a naturally shed antler

When a buck is ready to shed his antlers, a physiological change happens within the body to allow them to drop off.

A few things can change the timeline for this to happen.

- Age & nutritional status of the buck
- Injury severe enough to affect health
- Genetics
- Does in estrus trigger the rut, population increase of bred does (out of estrus) will trigger the end of rut
 - Drop in estrus in the environment = drop in testosterone
- Decrease in photoperiod (days get shorter)
- When testosterone levels start to drop the body starts to release osteoclasts which start to weaken the base of the antler (pedicle) and eventually the antler drops off

CUT ANTLERS SMELL DIFFERENTLY TO THE DOG THAN NATURALLY SHED ANTLERS!

